



## Ask your British Research Questions

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17 November 2016

### Question 1: How are Scottish non-conformist records accessed?

#### Answers:

Before 1854 non-conformist records can be located for Scotland, but very few after 1854. These are usually for baptisms and marriages. Burial records for Scotland are much more difficult to locate. It was not required to record them in the Church Records. Non-conformist records may be in The Church of Scotland records. Tombstone records are not easy to locate, but if they exist can help. Weathering can be a problem over time and finding readable tombstone pre-1850 maybe difficult to find.

Burials not in the Old Parochial Records of the Church of Scotland maybe few in non-conformist records. The Church of Scotland database on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) has these non-conformist records from the Family History Libraries collections.

Roman Catholic and some non-conformist records are available on [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) pre-1992 back to 1538. The period of time will depend upon the records indexed.

Try the local level for non-conformist records such as Strathclyde or the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, Scotland. The National Archives have a listing of pre-1855 non-conformist records. Seceder Records. The National archives is now called the National Records of Scotland.

The Mitchell Library in Glasgow has put online baptism transcripts for the Anglican church or the Church of England online at their website.

<http://www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/ExploreRecords/Pages/Online-resources.aspx>

Try looking at Google or another search engine to see if you can locate non-conformist records or family information that has been put online.

### Question 2: I am looking for ancestors in 1500's England? What is the best way to find any records or information?

#### Answers:

Landed Gentry of nobility records are very useful.

If they emigrated in the 1620's or later, then try and find what can be located in this country of America especially for New England.

Records in general would include Probate Records (Wills). Indexes and documents can be located. Landed or wealthy may be able to find the probate record. Try Manorial Court records. Visitation records which are pedigrees can be looked into. These records are on the county level. Try Estate records which have leases, rentals, mortgages, and specific land records. Guild records depend upon location. Church of England, christenings, marriages, and burials can start in 1538 and depends upon when the church started keeping the parish registers. Burials and marriages can reach prior to 1538 from a post 1538 record Church Record.

Nobility and Gentry can have many different answers to 1500's records.  
The National Archives can have Chancery proceedings they go back to the 1300's.

There is a tax that shows 1520-1522 period at The National Archives. These are for the head of household of the gentry.

The <http://www.thepeerage.com/> shows pedigrees and is a good website for reliable information and goes early and comes to the present time.

Baronetage and knighthood.

Lay subsidy, pipe rolls, and other taxation documents

**Question 3: I'm looking for records before 1874 for Thomas J. Batten, who was born between 1850-1855 in London. Most of his census records say he was born in London -- West and the 1901 Census says "Silver Street". How can I figure out what GRO registration districts might cover this part of London? Thomas' marriage to Angelina Knowles was registered in 1874 Q3 in Totnes Registration District. From Jan Murphy.**

**Answers:**

Birth September Quarter 1851 for St James Westminster and is in the London area in the 1871 census where it says he was born in London but residing with his grandparents in Penzance, Cornwall as Thomas James Batten. Has a sister named Mary Ann with mother's maiden name was Tredrea. Tredrea maybe a Cornish surname. On GRO the mother's maiden surname is Tetrea September Quarter St James Westminster Vol 1 page 103

Some of the Knowles families were Non-Conformist but I don't have any evidence for the Batten family being Non-Conformist.

Go to the [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk) for births have now been indexed showing the mother's maiden surname from 1 July 1837-1915. You hopefully can locate the birth certificate from this.

Belinda: GRO has a "view list of registration districts on search page.  
<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/images/GRO%20Registration%20District%20Book.pdf>

Phil mentioned you can try Church Records in London and you can try St Albans Wood Street. 90% of the City of London proper records for baptism by FamilySearch to 1875 and Ancestry up to 1912.

Now you can purchase a certificate in PDF form and the cost is 6 pounds to get the copy in about one week through e-mail. The certificate looks the same without the seal.

#### **Question 4: What type of searches can be made for probate records online for England?**

##### **Answers:**

Phil: Your best friend is [wiki.familysearch.org](http://wiki.familysearch.org) and go under the county of interest and then go to probate records and this will show websites that can be accessed.

##### **What are best websites for probate records?**

Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills are indexed with images which are 1383-1858.

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)   [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)   [www.thenationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.thenationalarchives.gov.uk)

Handful of counties are indexed pre-1858 online

Devon has a project for Devon which is through the OPC for Devon and through [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)

[www.findmypast](http://www.findmypast) has done the British Index Library series pre-1858 which are the indexes for many counties.

Some local record offices have done probate record indexes with information online. Wiltshire, Norfolk, Lancashire, Cheshire, Court of Husting are at british-history and 250,000 will online. Chester only have the county which is the lower of Lancashire.

Jan Murphy: all the wills for all courts in England and Wales and Soldiers wills 1858-present are available through [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

#### **Question 5: What Online sources are there for English stevedores?**

##### **Answers:**

What port records? Greater London area. London, Woolwich, Greenwich, Stepney, best places to start.

Maritime Museum in Woolwich and Greenwich. Try the London Metropolitan Archives.

[www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/jobs/london-dockers](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/jobs/london-dockers)

Talks about London Docks with sections covering the maritime records

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)   [www.parishregister.com](http://www.parishregister.com)

Indexed the church records for parishes close to the docks and dockland area.